CLP Guarantees to Prioritise Trade and Railway in Government.

28 February 2005

CLP Leader Denis Burke has today again criticised Chief Minister Clare Martin’s commitment to the Adelaide to Darwin railway, saying that a high-level summit should be initiated as a matter of priority.

Mr Burke says that with Northline Freight Management pulling out and damaging interstate reports, urgent action is needed to ensure the future of the railway and the land-bridging concept.

“This conference would invite all companies and persons involved in the railway as well as selected transport, shipping/freight forwarders and logistics experts such as Lindsay Fox.

“Under the government of Clare Martin, the Adelaide to Darwin railway has not even gone close to fulfilling its potential. The Chief Minister says that it will take a while to realise this but by the time the government acts, it may be too late.

“I believe that the best way to address current problems is to convene a high-level summit with all stakeholders and experts to develop a plan to move the railway forward. Obviously the Martin government is not prepared to act so if the CLP is elected, we will act immediately and decisively to get the railway back on track.

“The CLP will also re-invigorate all of the overseas trade offices that Clare Martin has failed to support in our regional trading areas. It is essential that government provides leadership through the marketing of new potential trade routes and agreements – a priority for a Denis Burke-led CLP government.

“On top of this, the CLP has also previously announced that it would re-establish a Ministry of Asian Relations and Trade as a stand alone entity with a specific focus on developing the land-bridging concept and increasing trade opportunities in the region.”

Mr Burke says that only a CLP government has the ability and skill needed to get the railway functioning to its full potential, something that Clare Martin is unable and unwilling to do.

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